Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /114 W

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R 291500Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5767

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, CY, TU, US

SUBJECT: NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION (IFATCA) HELD 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NICOSIA APR 25-29, 1977. CONFERENCE DELIVERATIONS WERE PRIMARILY TECHNICAL: HOWEVER, POLITICAL ISSUE OF ERCAN OPERATIONS DID SURFACE. CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFERENCE FINAL STATEMENT CONDEMNED ERCAN ACTIVITIES AND CALLED UPON ICAO, IATA AND IFALPA TO IGNORE ERCAN ADVISORY AIRSPACE CONTROL. EM AND BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION CALLED UPON RESPECTIVE NATIONAL ATTENDEES FOR TECHNICAL ADVICE ON POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR ERCAN ISSUE. EMBASSY CONSIDERS POLITICAL STATEMENTS UNHELPFUL FOR SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

- 2. IFATCA CONVOKED ITS 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN NICOSIA APR 25-29, 1977. 40 OF THE 45 MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS ATTENDED. TURKEY, WHICH SENT NO DELEGATION, IS VENUE FOR 1979 ANNUAL CONFERENCE.
- 3. CONFERENCE WAS DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL TRAINING AND ADMINISTRATION. THREE SEPARATE STUDY GROUPS COVERED EACH OF THESE AREAS IN DETAIL. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THESE TECHNICAL GROUPS NOT RPT NOT YET KNOWN.
- 4. CONFERENCE WAS NOT RPT NOT ENTIRELY FREE OF POLITICS CONCERN-ING TFSC OPERATION OF ERCAN AIRSPACE ADVISORY SERVICE. IN OPENING REMARKS ON APRIL 25 VARIOUS GOC SPEAKERS BROACHED SUBJECT. A FINAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY IFATCA ON APRIL 28 CONDEMNED ERCAN OPERATION AS "ILLEGAL AND LIABLE TO CREATE HAZARDOUS EFFECTS TO AIR TRAFFIC IN THE EASTERN MEDITER-RANEAN" AND FURTHER CALLED ON ICAO, IATA AND INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION (IFALPA) TO DIS-REGARD IT. MORE SPECIFICALLY IT CALLS ON ICAO TO ENSURE IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF ALL DANGEROUS AND ILLEGAL OPERATIONS IN NICOSIA FIR AND UPON IATA AND IFALPA TO IGNORE ERCAN TOTALLY. FINALLY, IT RECOMMENDS TEXT BE CIRCULATED TO ALL AUTHORITIES IN REGION.
- 5. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH MR. PAUL PETERSEN, FAA BRUSSELS REP ATTENDING CONFERENCE TO GET EXPERT ADVICE ON POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS TO ERCAN PROBLEM. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION WAS ASKED TO CONTACT CONFIDENTIAL

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THERIR DELEGATION HEAD WITH SAME OBJECTIVE. RESULTS WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL.

6. COMMENTS: EMBASSY CONSIDERS CONFERENCE POLITICAL UTTERANCES UNHELPFUL. TURKEY BOYCOTTED CONFERENCE. ANTI-TURKEY/TFSC STATEMENTS WILL BE SEEN BY TURKS AS HAVING BEEN DICTATED BY GOC. SEEDS MAY HAVE BEEN SOWN FOR POSSIBLE TURKISH WITHDRAWAL FROM IFATCA AND CHANGE OF VENUE FOR 1979 CONFERENCE. TURKISH/TFSC REACTIONS TO CONFERENCE/AIRSPACE ADVISORY ISSUE WILL BE REPORTED SUBSEQUENTLY. CRAWFORD

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

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